

GEORGE HOWARD, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED  
STATES COURTHOUSE

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JUNE 25, 2007.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. OBERSTAR, from the Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2011]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2011) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the “George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse”, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

H.R. 2011 designates the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the “George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Judge George Howard, Jr. was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on May 13, 1924. He began his service to our nation at the age of 18 when he was drafted into military service during World War II. Judge Howard served with distinction in the United States Navy with the Construction Battalion—or the “Seabees”—in the South Pacific.

After completing his military service, Judge George Howard Jr. returned to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and re-enrolled in high school to complete his high school education. Upon graduating from high school, Judge Howard attended the pre-law program at Lincoln University in Missouri and graduated with honors. Judge Howard subsequently attended the University of Arkansas School of Law. He was the first African American student to live on campus in the newly desegregated campus dormitories. He earned his law degree in 1954.

After graduating from law school, Judge Howard began a long, illustrious, and trailblazing legal career in his home state of Arkansas. In the 1950s, Judge Howard started a private law practice and devoted his energies to representing those whose voices would not otherwise be heard. He subsequently served on the Arkansas State Claims Commission, the Arkansas Court of Appeals, and the Arkansas Supreme Court. In 1980, President Carter appointed Judge Howard to the U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas. Judge Howard was Arkansas' first African American Federal judge. During his tenure, he presided over the lengthy "Whitewater" trials regarding a failed Arkansas land deal.

During Judge Howard's career, he received several awards and distinctions from the legal community. He received the Outstanding Trial Judge Award from the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association, the Distinguished Jurist Award from the National Bar Association, and the Keepers of the Spirit-Community Service Award from University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

Through his pursuit of legal and racial equality, and his exemplary career in public service, Judge Howard helped to pave the way for other African-Americans to pursue careers in law and public service. From his time as a private attorney, to his service as President of the State Council of Branches of the National Association of Colored People (NAACP), Judge Brown's judicial ideals were grounded in the fundamental belief of justice for all.

Judge Howard passed away on April 21, 2007, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at the age of 82. In honor of Judge George Howard, Jr.'s outstanding contributions to the state of Arkansas, the Federal judiciary, and his distinguished legal career, it is both fitting and proper to designate the courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

#### SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION

##### *Section 1. Designation*

Section 1 designates the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

##### *Section 2. References*

Section 2 declares any reference in law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal Building and United States Courthouse referred to in Section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On May 23, 2007, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session, and ordered the bill reported favorably to the House by voice vote.

#### RECORD VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives requires each committee report to include the total number of votes cast for

and against on each record vote on a motion to report and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, and the names of those members voting for and against. There were no recorded votes taken in connection with ordering H.R. 2011 reported. A motion to order H.R. 2011 reported favorably to the House was agreed to by voice vote with a quorum present.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(I) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in this report.

#### COST OF LEGISLATION

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply where a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 has been timely submitted prior to the filing of the report and is included in the report. Such a cost estimate is included in this report.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee references the report of the Congressional Budget Office included in the report.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the performance goals and objective of this legislation are to designate the Federal Building and United States Courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 2011 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
*Washington, DC, May 24, 2007.*

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,  
*Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 2011, a bill to designate the federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse," as ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 23, 2007.

CBO estimates that enactment of this legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget and would not affect direct spending or revenues. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be

pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford.

Sincerely,

PETER R. ORSZAG, *Director*.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XXI

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H.R. 2011, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause (3)(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, committee reports on a bill or joint resolution of a public character shall include a statement citing the specific powers granted to the Congress in the Constitution to enact the measure. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure finds that Congress has the authority to enact this measure pursuant to its powers granted under article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

#### FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (Public Law 104–4).

#### PREEMPTION CLARIFICATION

Section 423 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 requires the report of any Committee on a bill or joint resolution to include a statement on the extent to which the bill or joint resolution is intended to preempt state, local, or tribal law. The Committee states that H.R. 2011 does not preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act are created by this legislation.

#### APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (Public Law 104–1).

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

H.R. 2011 makes no changes in existing law.